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Howden Rural District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1944.

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HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1—Area (in acres) 69,963.

2—Estimate of the average population of the area during 1944—12,380.

3—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to Rate Books—3,380.

4—Rateable Value—£35,935.

5—Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£141.

The chief Industry throughout the District is Agriculture; other employment being provided by the Flax Mill, Ouse Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards, Railways and Market Gardening.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health, who acts as Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

A full-time Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, with certificates A.R.San.I. and M.S.I.A.

A Matron and two Fever trained Nurses at the Isolation Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	... ...	92	107	199
Illegitimate	... ...	13	10	23
Total	...	105	117	222
Still Births—Legitimate	... ...	5	4	9
Illegitimate	... ...	1	0	1
Total	...	6	4	10

Birth Rate for the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 population —17·9.

Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population—17·6.

The percentage of Still Births to total Births in the Howden Rural Area—4·3%.

DEATHS.

		M.	F.	Total.
All Deaths in 1944	... ...	80	61	141

Death per 1,000 population in Howden Rural Area—11·37.

Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population—11·6.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—0.

Deaths from other Puerperal Causes—2.

Maternal Mortality in the Howden Rural Area per 1,000 Births—8.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales per 1,000 Births 1·93.

INFANT MORTALITY.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths of Children under 1 year of age	6	3	9

Of these three were Illegitimate.

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births—38·7.

Infant Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,900 Births --46.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Scarlet Fever.

One Death was attributed to Diphtheria.

Deaths from Tuberculosis—7

Deaths from Cancer—14.

CONCLUSIONS.

There has been a distinct rise in the Birth Rate from 16·0 in 1943 to 17·9 in 1944.

The Death Rate has fallen from 13·3 in 1943 to 11·37 in 1944.

The Infant Mortality compares favourably with that of the whole Country.

The Maternal Mortality appears somewhat high, but this is due to the fact that one death in our comparatively small Area means a large number per 1,000 Births.

For many years we had no Maternal Deaths, but unfortunately in 1944 there were 2.

The Howden Public Assistance Institution has developed a very useful Maternity Department, and the Ante-Natal work which has been done there has supplied an added protection for Expectant Mothers.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—All examinations of Clinical Material are carried out at the Laboratory of the Hull Royal Infirmary, and are available to all practitioners in the Rural Area at the combined expense of the Rural District Council and the County Council.

During the past year the following tests were made :—

Diphtheria—Primary Swabs	... ...	16
Positive	... .	1
Negative	... ...	15
Tuberculosis—Primary Examinations	.. ...	23
Positive	... ...	6
Negative	... ...	17
Other Primary Examinations	... ...	18

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—During 1944 there were 172 children under 5 years of age immunised, and 29 over 5 years of age.

This response is very gratifying and keeps up the percentage of children protected to a very high level—well over 80%,

The Rural District Council now send a Birthday Card to every child on its First Birthday drawing the attention of the Parents to the advantages of Immunisation,

Every Child who has been treated in Infancy should receive a single full dose soon after its commencement at school i.e. 5 years of age.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—An Ambulance for the conveyance of patients to hospital is available at Beverley.

Ambulances for their own cases are kept at the Isolation Hospital, and the Goole Bartholomew Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—An Infant Welfare Centre was re-opened in Howden in January, 1938, and has been very well attended. It is very satisfactory that the advantages of the Centre are being well appreciated.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—During the year 1936, the Midwives' Act came into operation, and Midwives were appointed to attend cases in different Districts, so that a Maternity Nurse is available for any case within the Howden Rural Area. This is a great improvement, of which full advantage should be taken.

HOSPITALS.—In Howden Town a Public Assistance Institution for the sick poor, and an Isolation Hospital with 30 beds for Infectious Diseases. Shipton Hospital is available for Small Pox Cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There is a Sanatorium at Raywell, and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Selby available for the Rural Area. There is also a Clinic at Goole.

During the year 13 cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

There were 12 cases of Tuberculosis of Lung, and 1 case affecting other Regions.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—Fortunately, we have not had the increase in Venereal Diseases which has been noticed throughout the Country.

The nearest Venereal Centre for the District is at Goole Hospital, where Patients should report on Fridays. 5 p.m. for Women, and 8 p.m. for Men.

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.—Goole, Selby, York, Hull, and Leeds. There is no Ambulance available for the conveyance of patients to any hospital, except the Goole Bartholomew Hospital ambulance, which is available for patients admitted to that Institution. The A.R.P. ambulance may be used if no other is available.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received :—

	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Scarlet Fever ...	32	20	21	48	32
Diphtheria ...	2	4	23	9	38
Whooping Cough ...	100	60	65	46	14
Erysipelas ...	3	6	9	4	2
Measles ...	20	227	171	106	245
Pneumonia ...	9	19	10	16	38
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	0	0	0	0

SCHOOLS.

All Schools are under the County Council, with the exception of one small Private School in Howden. Reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Medical Officer of Health of absentees from School suffering from Infective Sickness.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.